

## NOT VOTING—25

Blunt	Edwards	Moran (VA)
Boyd	Forbes	Price (NC)
Brown, Corrine	Gephardt	Rush
Buyer	Granger	Schrock
Capps	Gutierrez	Sweeney
Carter	Hulshof	Terry
Case	Johnson (CT)	Young (FL)
Conyers	Lipinski	
Cox	Miller, Gary	

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are less than 2 minutes remaining on this vote.

## □ 1902

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

# COMMENDING THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEBRIS COLLECTION EFFORT FOLLOWING THE SPACE SHUTTLE COLUMBIA ACCIDENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILCHREST). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, House Resolution 222.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 222, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 411, nays 0, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 185]

## YEAS—411

Abercrombie	Bono	Cooper
Ackerman	Boozman	Costello
Aderholt	Boswell	Cramer
Akin	Boucher	Crane
Alexander	Bradley (NH)	Crenshaw
Allen	Brady (PA)	Crowley
Andrews	Brady (TX)	Cubin
Baca	Brown (OH)	Culberson
Bachus	Brown (SC)	Cummings
Baird	Brown-Waite,	Cunningham
Baker	Ginny	Davis (AL)
Baldwin	Burgess	Davis (CA)
Ballance	Burns	Davis (FL)
Barrett (SC)	Burr	Davis (IL)
Bartlett (MD)	Burton (IN)	Davis (TN)
Barton (TX)	Calvert	Davis, Jo Ann
Bass	Camp	Davis, Tom
Beauprez	Cannon	Deal (GA)
Becerra	Cantor	DeFazio
Bell	Capito	DeGette
Bereuter	Capps	Delahunt
Berkley	Capuano	DeLauro
Berman	Cardin	DeLay
Berry	Cardoza	DeMint
Biggart	Carson (IN)	Deutsch
Bilirakis	Carson (OK)	Diaz-Balart, L.
Bishop (GA)	Carter	Diaz-Balart, M.
Bishop (NY)	Castle	Dicks
Bishop (UT)	Chabot	Dingell
Blackburn	Chocola	Doggett
Blumenauer	Clay	Dooley (CA)
Blunt	Clyburn	Doolittle
Boehlert	Coble	Doyle
Boehner	Cole	Dreier
Bonilla	Collins	Duncan
Bonner	Combest	Dunn

Ehlers	Emanuel	Kline	Putnam
Emerson	Engel	Knollenberg	Quinn
Engel	English	Kolbe	Radanovich
Eshoo	Etheridge	Kucinich	Rahall
Everett	Evans	LaHood	Ramstad
Farr	Everett	Lampson	Rangel
Fattah	Farr	Langevin	Regula
Feeney	Fattah	Lantos	Rehberg
Ferguson	Feeney	Larsen (WA)	Renzi
Filner	Ferguson	Larson (CT)	Reyes
Flake	Filner	Latham	Reynolds
Fletcher	Flake	LaTourette	Rodriguez
Foley	Fletcher	Leach	Rogers (AL)
Ford	Foley	Lee	Rogers (KY)
Fossella	Ford	Levin	Rogers (MI)
Frank (MA)	Fossella	Lewis (CA)	Rohrabacher
Franks (AZ)	Frank (MA)	Lewis (GA)	Ros-Lehtinen
Frelinghuysen	Franks (AZ)	Lewis (KY)	Ross
Frost	Frelinghuysen	Linder	Rothman
Gallegly	Frost	LoBiondo	Roybal-Allard
Garrett (NJ)	Gallegly	Lofgren	Royce
Gerlach	Garrett (NJ)	Lowey	Ruppersberger
Gibbons	Gerlach	Lucas (KY)	Ryan (OH)
Gilchrest	Gibbons	Lucas (OK)	Ryan (WI)
Gillmor	Gilchrest	Lynch	Ryun (KS)
Gingrey	Gillmor	Majette	Sabo
Gonzalez	Gingrey	Maloney	Sanchez, Linda
Goode	Gonzalez	Manzullo	T.
Goodlatte	Goode	Markey	Sanchez, Loretta
Gordon	Goodlatte	Marshall	Sanders
Goss	Gordon	Matheson	Sandlin
Graves	Goss	Matsui	Saxton
Green (TX)	Graves	McCarthy (MO)	Schakowsky
Green (WI)	Green (TX)	McCarthy (NY)	Schiff
Greenwood	Green (WI)	McCollum	Scott (GA)
Grijalva	Greenwood	McCotter	Scott (VA)
Gutknecht	Grijalva	McCrery	Sensenbrenner
Hall	Gutknecht	McDermott	Serrano
Harman	Hall	McGovern	Sessions
Harris	Harman	McHugh	Shadegg
Hart	Harris	McInnis	Shaw
Hastings (FL)	Hart	McIntyre	Shays
Hastings (WA)	Hastings (FL)	McKeon	Sherman
Hayes	Hastings (WA)	McNulty	Sherwood
Hayworth	Hayes	Meehan	Shimkus
Hefley	Hayworth	Meek (FL)	Shuster
Hensarling	Hefley	Meeks (NY)	Simmons
Hergert	Hensarling	Menendez	Simpson
Hill	Hergert	Mica	Skelton
Hinchey	Hill	Michaud	Slaughter
Hinojosa	Hinchey	Millender-	Smith (MI)
Hobson	Hinojosa	McDonald	Smith (NJ)
Hoeffel	Hobson	Miller (FL)	Smith (TX)
Hoekstra	Hoeffel	Miller (MI)	Smith (WA)
Holden	Hoekstra	Miller (NC)	Snyder
Holt	Holden	Miller, George	Solis
Honda	Holt	Mollohan	Souder
Hooley (OR)	Honda	Moore	Spratt
Hostettler	Hooley (OR)	Moran (KS)	Stark
Houghton	Hostettler	Murphy	Stearns
Hoyer	Houghton	Musgrave	Stenholm
Hunter	Hoyer	Myrick	Strickland
Hyde	Hunter	Nadler	Stupak
Inlee	Hyde	Napolitano	Sullivan
Isakson	Inlee	Neal (MA)	Tancredo
Israel	Isakson	Nethercutt	Tanner
Issa	Israel	Ney	Tauscher
Istook	Issa	Northup	Tauzin
Obey	Istook	Norwood	Taylor (MS)
Oliver	Obey	Nunes	Taylor (NC)
Ortiz	Oliver	Nussle	Thomas
Osborne	Ortiz	Oberstar	Thompson (CA)
Ose	Osborne	Obey	Thompson (MS)
Otter	Ose	Olver	Thornberry
Owens	Otter	Ortiz	Tiahrt
Oxley	Owens	Osborne	Tiberi
Pallone	Oxley	Ose	Tierney
Pascarella	Pallone	Otter	Toomey
Pastor	Pascarella	Owens	Towns
Paul	Pastor	Oxley	Turner (OH)
Payne	Paul	Pallone	Turner (TX)
Pearce	Payne	Pascarella	Udall (CO)
Pelosi	Pearce	Pastor	Udall (NM)
Pence	Pelosi	Paul	Upton
Peterson (MN)	Pence	Payne	Van Hollen
Peterson (PA)	Peterson (MN)	Pearce	Velazquez
Petri	Peterson (PA)	Pelosi	Visclosky
Pickering	Petri	Pence	Vitter
Pitts	Pickering	Peterson (MN)	Walden (OR)
Platts	Pitts	Peterson (PA)	Walsh
Pombo	Platts	Petri	Wamp
Pomeroy	Pombo	Pickering	Waters
Porter	Pomeroy	Pitts	Watson
Portman	Porter	Platts	Watt
Pryce (OH)	Portman	Pombo	Waxman
	Pryce (OH)	Pomeroy	Weiner
		Porter	Weldon (FL)
		Portman	Weldon (PA)
		Pryce (OH)	Weller

## NOT VOTING—23

Ballenger	Forbes	Murtha
Boyd	Gephardt	Price (NC)
Brown, Corrine	Granger	Rush
Buyer	Gutierrez	Schrock
Case	Hulshof	Sweeney
Conyers	Lipinski	Terry
Cox	Miller, Gary	Young (FL)
Edwards	Moran (VA)	

## □ 1921

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

# REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 660

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 660.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILCHREST). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana? There was no objection.

# REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1527, NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-97) on the resolution (H. Res. 229) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1527) to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the National Transportation Safety Board for fiscal years 2003 through 2006, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

# REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1000, PENSION SECURITY ACT OF 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-98) on the resolution (H. Res. 230) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1000) to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional protections to participants and beneficiaries in individual account plans from excessive investment in employer securities and to promote the provision of retirement investment advice to workers managing their retirement income assets, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

## SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order

of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### TURKEY'S DECADE-OLD BLOCKAGE AGAINST ARMENIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this evening to discuss the decade-old blockade against Armenia by Turkey. This is one of the most egregious violations of international law by Turkey, and it is one that hardly gets any attention in the international community. I have been encouraged, however, by two recent reports on the Turkish blockade. The first was done by the State Department at the request of me and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG) and the second was written by members of the European Parliament.

Last year, members of the Congressional Caucasus of Armenian Issues, of which the gentleman from Michigan and I are cochairs, identified a bill that would grant some Turkish goods duty free status. We protested very early about this, Mr. Speaker; and when it came time to include the bill, we obtained assurances from the administration that they would try to offset this provision for Turkey by pressing for Armenia's accession to the World Trade Organization. The letter from Deputy Secretary Armitage in this regard specifically stated, and I quote, "The administration is pressing Turkey to restore economic, political and cultural links with Armenia, and is encouraging Turkey to open its border with Armenia. We believe that such action would promote the economic development of both Turkey and Armenia." We were also promised, Mr. Speaker, a report by the State Department and the U.S. trade representative on the Turkish blockade by March 31 of this year.

Mr. Speaker, the report we received was entitled: "The Economic Impact of Turkish/Armenian Border Closure and Diplomatic Contacts with Both Parties on This Issue." I have included a copy of this report for the RECORD, Mr. Speaker. This report was only three pages long, Mr. Speaker; but it made clear some of the administration's views on the Turkish blockade. It stated: "The United States has long pressed for the opening of the border and the free flow of trade in the region." The report also listed various attempts that the United States has pressed Turkey on this issue and it stated: "Most recently the issue was raised with Turkish officials during Secretary Powell's April 2 visit to Ankara, Turkey."

Mr. Speaker, although members of the Congressional Caucasus on Armenian Issues are encouraged by Secretary Powell's helpful comments during a very tense time in the Middle East, we also encourage a greater commitment

by the administration to pressing Turkey to discontinue its incredibly damaging blockade.

The second report that I mentioned, Mr. Speaker, was coordinated with a conference sponsored by the European Parliament and the Turkish-Armenian Business Development Council, and it included members of the European Parliament and business community of both Turkey and Armenia. The title of the conference was: "Still an Iron Curtain: Armenia-Turkey relations, 10 years after the border was closed."

This conference, Mr. Speaker, highlighted not only the economic numbers that justify the lifting of the blockade but also the real Armenian and Turkish citizens that want the decade-old interruption of their normal life and commerce to end. The TABDC estimates that 30 to 40 percent of Armenia's GNP is lost each year solely to the border closure. Every year the Armenian Caucus pushes for a robust level of U.S. aid for Armenia, but these efforts to help revive the economy and civil society are hamstrung by Turkey's insistence in joining ranks with its belligerent brother, Azerbaijan. The State Department report also included a 2001 World Bank report entitled: "Trade, Transport and Telecommunications in the South Caucasus: Current Obstacles to Regional Cooperation." This report repeats what is already common knowledge, that closed borders retard trade and development.

Mr. Speaker, it has been far too long for Armenia to suffer under the yoke of Turkey. This is the only situation in the world where one member of the WTO is blockaded by another. We have known for years about Turkey's illegal blockades; but since Armenia's accession to the WTO, Turkey's actions are egregious even more. There can be no excuse for Turkey to continue the blockade of Armenia and still hold itself up as a democracy, purportedly respecting the rights of all its citizens and neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, finally, I call on the Bush administration to continue to press Turkey hard to drop the 10 years of blockade against its sovereign neighbor. It is crucial for the United States to be seen in the international community as a peaceful arbitrator between enemies. The release of this burden on the peoples of Armenia and eastern Turkey would help the region recover from the market disruption after the fall of the Soviet Union. For peace to prosper, for democracy to truly take hold and for the economies of all the countries of the South Caucasus to move forward into the 21st century, relations must be normalized throughout the region. This region was mired in war and genocide before the rise of the Soviet Union. It should be an imperative of the Bush administration not to let this region slip back further economically.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
Washington, DC, April 7, 2003.

Hon. FRANK PALLONE, JR.,  
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. PALLONE: As promised in Deputy Secretary Armitage's letter dated September 20, 2002, regarding the Turkey/Armenia border issue, enclosed is the State Department Report, Economic Impact of Turkish/Armenian Border Closure and on Diplomatic Contacts with Both Parties on This Issue. Also enclosed for your information is the 2002 World Bank Report entitled Trade, Transport and Telecommunications in the South Caucasus: Current Obstacles to Regional Cooperation.

I am pleased to note that the Administration's efforts on Armenia's accession to the WTO were successful and that Armenia became a member in December 2002.

We hope this information is useful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of assistance on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

PAUL V. KELLY,

Assistant Secretary Legislative Affairs.

Enclosures: As stated.

#### ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TURKISH/ARMENIAN BORDER CLOSURE AND DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WITH BOTH PARTIES ON THIS ISSUE

Citing Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan during the hostilities over Nagorno-Karabakh, the Government of Turkey closed its border with Armenia in March 1993. Turkey took this action following the Armenian seizure of Kelbajar, an Azerbaijani province outside Nagorno-Karabakh. Prior to that time, the border was open for one train a week between Kars in Turkey and Gyumri in Armenia. The United States has long pressed for the opening of the border and the free-flow of trade in the region.

Azerbaijan, too, severed all economic relations with Armenia and has refused to allow any direct trade. The trains between the two countries had already ceased operating owing to harassment of crews and torn-up tracks on both sides. As a result, trade between land-locked Armenia and neighboring markets has been distorted and Azerbaijan and Turkey have cost the most direct transportation corridor between their countries and the Mediterranean and Caspian Seas. Although there has been a cease-fire and an ongoing Nagorno-Karabakh peace process since 1994, the governments of Azerbaijan and Turkey say they will only open their borders with Armenia only when there is a settlement to the conflict.

The full extent of these trade distortions will ultimately be eliminated only with the opening of both borders. However, assuming only the Turkish/Armenian border were reopened, one would expect: a reduction in transportation costs to and from Armenia, an increase in Turkish-Armenian trade, and an improved overall economic environment in Armenia and eastern Turkey. Armenian Foreign Minister Oskanian has stated that the border closures were among the major hindrances to increasing export volumes and attraction of foreign investments to Armenia. And it is true today that transportation costs and customs duties can increase the prices of Armenian imports and exports by as much as 100 percent and in some cases even more due to the need to ship goods via Georgia or Iran. If the Turkish-Armenian border were to open, some economic observers estimate that overall transportation costs to and from Armenia might fall by 50 percent or more.

Assuming that these savings lead to lower prices, one would expect overall trade between Turkey and Armenia, as well as transit traffic between Armenia and Western Europe via Turkey, to increase in real terms as